

**Recap of February 18, 2004, Meeting
Government Access and Information Committee
12:00pm Room 206 County/City Building**

Attendees: Rod Armstrong, James Lamphere, James Shultz, Dave Kroeker, Jim Langtry, Shannon Ideus, Trish Owen, Brian Pillard, Diane Gonzolas, Douglas Thomas, Rita Dey, Terry Lowe

Approval of Minutes,

There was a quorum and January meeting minutes were approved.

Statistics,

For the first time in history, NT server hits exceeded seven million for the month of January. User Sessions were at 346,000, which is the highest number ever. The next closest was in October 2003 when they were 298,000. The seven million hits on the NT server reflects the page hits and all of the objects on that page thus, Doug has always felt that User Sessions are a better number to track when looking at the growth of the site.

Zenu hits account for 167,000 hits, which means the web assistants are running Zenu which finds broken links. David has been meeting with Terry and Chris weekly and they are contacting the Web Assistants to remind them to run Zenu. User Sessions are a good gauge of activity because they are a one to one ratio with the Multiprise Hits. Contractor Hits and Accident Reports also have a one to one ratio. If you look at past stats, there was an 81,000 increase in hits at Public Works from 116,000 to 197,000. Many of these hits may be related to snow removal information being available on the site. The Web Cams continue to show good growth. There were almost 200,000 hits on the traffic cams last month. The traffic cams take a picture of the intersection and the picture refreshes ever 30 seconds. On the County side, the County Assessor was up about 55 thousand from last month and the County Sheriff was up 31,000. Multiprise hits were up about 250,000 last month. 200,000 which relate to the County Assessor. Page hits are up from 800,000 to about one million on the Assessor side. IMS hits were up 230,000 in January.

We are starting to track hits on the CJIS Platform and these figures have been added to the Web Hits table. In February 2003 there were 109,000 hits and in January 2004 hits were up to 185,000. There has been a 45% growth in a years time. The CJIS figures include the outstanding warrants, stolen property, accident reports, calls for service, crime in your neighborhood etc. This information had not been included in the stats table prior to now. The contractors system was down about 800 hits. 27,000 last month was a spike up, 18,000 the month before that and this month was 26,000.

ePayments:

Last month there was approximately \$95,000 in net collections, \$97,800 in gross collections. We are close to \$1,700,000 in total collections. \$700 was collected in Animal Licenses, 47 County Property Taxes payments were made, for a total collected of \$65,000, 350 Parking Tickets were paid (\$6,725), down some, and Criminal Histories had 552 requests which is one of the higher months, with a total collected of \$5,000. There were 190 Water Bill payments, which is the highest number of payments to date, for at total of \$17,800, which is also a record high.

LES is still reluctant to put in an ePayment module. It would not take much to make an ePayment module for them since we helped write their new customer billing system and they are on the Multiprise. We already have the payment module built so it would not take much work to put this in place.

Cross Promotional Contracts:

These contracts are signed and filed. CIC is planning to do a news conference in early March to announce our plans with the Project Partners. There are a couple of issues that we need to do before we start the advertising campaign. Cablevision has not put a reciprocal link on their web page yet, however, Terry could not ask them for one until the EO's were filed and signed. Terry would like to contact them on this to get the web things going. The only other responsibility we have is the creation of the bus signs. We need to talk with Rick to see how quickly we can get them done. We think they are going to follow something similar to our books marks but probably not that big, they will probably have a bigger URL on them and the four project partners and a logo. Diane did do a new script that is currently running for channel 10. The timing would be good if the Journal Star would like to do an InterLinc story and time it with an on air interview. It would be effective to do an advertising blitz all at once.

Business Cards:

The Police contacted Terry about putting the new URL's on their business cards. Terry talked to David and found out that the first run with the Mayor's stuff has ci.lincoln.ne.us on the cards, which cannot be changed at this point, but we have the ability to put what we want on the white part. Terry is switching both the URL and his email over to lincoln.ne.gov when he orders new business cards. Somehow we have to get the word out to people that if they are redoing their business cards right now they can make the changes to the URL and email addresses. David said that when it is time for a new run it would probably be a good time to switch it to lincoln.ne.gov. Diane is going to talk with Rick because he takes care of this with the printers. Some of the County people are changing the printing of the URL's to lancaster.ne.gov. There is a spot in Lotus Notes that you can change your return address to look a different way. We probably want to tell people how to do this and Terry is going to talk with Sandy about possible calls she may get.

Appointments:

The County approved all the appointments on Feb. 10. The appointments will be introduced on the City side on February 23, 2004 for public hearing on March 1, 2004.

2003 Highlights:

We report annually back to the Mayor, the City Council and County Board on highlights. Doug has not received any emails from members asking him to include specific information in the highlights and he is hoping to have this report completed by next month. If the members have something that they desire to have included, be sure to notify Doug.

Terry read part of an article that he copied for the Council members, in part it said "Lincoln might seem like one of the last place you would find leading internet offerings. Lincoln provides a remarkable glimpse into the future of less costly and more efficient e-government" This article is out of the United Airlines magazine. Doug will include the digital city awards and Terry will give Doug four or five articles that he has copied to mention in the report.

Various County Web Related Meetings:

Gwen has been spear heading some efforts to meet with County agencies. They have met with the County Assessor, the County Sheriff, and the County Attorney and Lancaster Manor and they have talked through some changes. The Manor is going to do a virtual tour and we are working with the vendor on the new property system, and with Gary Lacey on the public access component to Court Scheduling. The Court scheduling component should be able to be built using their current system.

Keyword Search:

There has been more success in cleaning up 404 errors than there has been in moving forward with the keyword search. Terry would like to see no bad links internally. There are still areas that we cannot control, like if someone steals a graphic to put on their page and does not copy it but references ours and we have moved it, it registers on our page as a 404 error. Terry has tried to contact the webmaster of these sites. They do this so that they do not have to maintain the graphics. The numbers of external 404 errors should be lower next month. We have gone through all of the City and the County, found all of our internal broken links and made some attempts to contact the external people. Part of this is education to the web assistants to run Zenu.

The keyword project is going to take more coordination. It is a simple thing to do but it is also a simple thing to mess up. If you put a keyword that does not belong on a webpage, it will bring up a page that really does not belong on a search. Terry is thinking about clean sweeping the whole site for keywords and starting fresh with the obvious ones, having people register them and having people who own the keyword grant permission for other people to use the word. They added snow a couple of weeks ago so that if anyone wanted to type in "snow" it would take them right where the maps were, where the snow removal plans were. We got to this point because the pages with the keywords were copied several times and the keywords were not changed.

Public Records;

Brian Pillard mentioned that Records and Information Management continues to write documents to microfilm and they have two companies that are purchasing the microfilm. For vendors who request it, Brian is planning on writing to CD's instead of microfilm. The pricing has to be the cost of the media and labor. On GIS they used an hourly rate of \$45 per hour. One company is LexisNexis and the other is First American Real-Estate. LexisNexis sells to other companies as does First American Real Estate. They are creating the tiered system and they are going to sell access to the information. Everyone that has social security numbers and signatures in the information that is sold to them went out the door. They offer access through their private system, they charge a monthly fee to access this information. It is exactly the same thing the Secretary of State is doing and Nebraska On-Line is also doing this with the court records. The State has deemed it okay to have a premium service for access. Doug has not seen an actual legal opinion from Mike Thew on this issue. Doug's understanding was that Kerry was going to talk to the Board and get a formal opinion from Mike Thew. This group has talked about trying to be proactive, whether the legislature acts upon this or not, it is probably in our best interest to get some final determination one way or another so it does not look like we have not been discussing the issue. Dave is going to give Kerry a copy of the minutes.

Other Projects;

Terry is having a meeting with the Parking people about credit card processing and what they want to do in the future with Husker game parking and some other issues.

Terry is starting to accept minor modifications to the Village sites on InterLinc so that the information will be more current. We are not going to seek the information but they are going to send the information to us. If the Villages provide us with more current information, we will post it for them. Currently, the village's do not maintain their sites.

Terry suggested putting public notices on the internet. He suggested that within the notice published stating for more information see the public notice on the internet. Kansas City saved \$600,000 per year by doing this on public notices. Dave raised the question as to whether this met legal notification in Nebraska but Terry thought it was worth further investigation. The legal notices have to be published in a paper of general circulation. It may be possible to advertise in the notices that Public Notices are available for public view at the office or on the internet site. They

still do the public notice but they reduce the amount of print and put the details on the website. Doug said we could get a legal opinion to see if it would work in Nebraska. Doug thought it would not hurt to look at it. A member thought the statute would have to be changed because the statute designates what needs to go into the notice and the statute probably does not include more than what is put in the notice. It says a newspaper of general publication in the County.

Automatic Citizen E-Mails:

The state has an automatic email that can be sent to an individual when a public meeting is coming up. The new citizen program that Terry is working on will have a similar system, when a citizen signs up they can request to be notified when different committees are meeting.

Next Meeting,

March 17, 2004